



East Fallowfield Historical Commission

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2017

2017 Historical Commission Members:

Joe McCormick, Chairman Arthur DeLeo Lee Schlingmann Becca Hunt
Sue Monaghan, Secretary Fred Bissinger Buddy Rhoades Connie McLaughlin

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:37pm

II. Meeting attendance

- Joe McCormick, Lee Schlingmann, Sue Monaghan, and Arthur DeLeo, Buddy Rhoades, Becca Hunt, and Connie McLaughlin present. Absent: Fred Bissinger. **Quorum met.**

III. Review of minutes of prior meeting

- Minutes of the February 1, 2017 meeting were reviewed and unanimously voted to be approved as written.

IV. Discussion – Open Issues

- **Mortonville Bridge** –potential for additional work to change the façade of interior side of concrete “jersey barrier” walls to be more in keeping with original appearance.
 - i. **No new information in discussion**
 - **Historic Resource Map and Windshield Survey** – modifications to the Windshield Survey are needed.
 - i. The windshield survey database has been updated to reflect the ownership information currently available.
 - ii. A recommendation of the EFT Comprehensive Plan Task Force was to update the Windshield Survey.
 - **Website Additions** – HC plans to enhance the Township website appeal by adding photos and other information pertaining to the Township’s historic resources.
 - **Facebook Page** – discussed proceeding with getting a Facebook presence up and running
 - i. **Connie McLaughlin agreed to take a lead role in getting this project started**
 - ii. **Pictures and other relevant information will be forwarded to Connie for inclusion**
 - **Electronic Storage of Historical Commission documents and records** – discussed the idea of scanning and preserving documents to electronic media to prevent loss or damage of the records. This will be an ongoing project, further meetings will discuss the means and methods.
 - I. Joe McCormick stated that a volume of Historic Resource data compiled by Peg Young had been scanned and stored on a thumb drive.
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- II. It has been thought that there may be a box or boxes of documents, photos, and other information compiled by the Historical Commission years ago that may be stored in the “attic” at the EFTY building. The office staff was contacted, and they will survey what is there and advise the HC. This information, if it exists, may then also be scanned and stored in a digital format.
 - It was stated that the BOS has no objections to HC members inspecting stored materials for preservation.
 - **2960 Strasburg Road** – renovation of the historic resource and former one-room schoolhouse had been started by the owner, Calvin Swartzentruber of Parkesburg, PA, but subsequently suspended. The structure is now in danger of demolition by neglect as it has been left unprotected from the elements.
 - I. **Draft letter prepared for BOS was reviewed, and comments for additions to the document, particularly with respect to actions to be taken, were suggested. The letter shall be revised to expand on the recommended actions to be taken**
 - II. **The EFT HC agreed that a field survey of the property was in order to better understand the conditions. It was agreed to meet at the location on Saturday, March 4, 2017.**
 - **People’s Hall** – a Class I historic resource which is included in the Ercildoun Thematic District (National Register of Historic Places), built in 1845 by the abolitionist group, East Fallowfield Anti-Slavery Society to hold their meetings, subsequently being home to various groups and meetings in the Township.
 - I. The structure had been recognized as a *Pennsylvania at Risk* property by Preservation Pennsylvania as one of the Commonwealth’s most endangered historic resource.
 - II. Information pertaining to this resource should be included on HCF Facebook presence.
 - **Membership solicitation**
 - I. A solicitation for new members for the Historical Commission has been posted on the EFT web page.
 - II. **There was a question raised at the recent BOS meeting concerning membership level requirements for the Historical Commission. As indicated in the Historic Resource Ordinance, the EFT HC may have up to nine members.**
 - III. **In response to the posting, two prospective members, Becca Hunt and Connie McLaughlin have been appointed to the EFT HC, Becca to a new term, and Connie to complete Garth Monaghan’s term.**
 - IV. Fred Bissinger stated that it would become increasingly difficult for him to continue with the HC. EFT will be contacted to begin solicitation for registered PA architect.
 - **Joe McCormick has reached out to several local architects to see if they had any architects on their staffs that might be interested in the EFT vacancy.**
 - **Arthur DeLeo offered to make some calls in this effort as well.**
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- V. **Chad Peterson appeared at the meeting expressing his interest in becoming a member of the EFT HC. Chad briefly summarized his relevant experience, and was questioned by HC members. A unanimous vote to recommend Chad to the BOS for appointment was taken**
- **Permit Application Review – the HC discussed an ongoing problem with building permits being issued for renovations to properties included in the EFT inventory of historic resources (Windshield Survey) without referral to the EFT HC for review and comment.**
 - I. **Sue Monaghan related discussions the Planning Commission was having relative to the development of a “checklist” of actions to be completed as a part of a permit application. One of the actions should be a check on the property’s status relative to historic significance.**

V. Discussion - New Business

- **Chester County Ledger – the CCHPN newsletter published in February was distributed to members.**
- **An invitation to “Botany in Chester County” the Chester County Antiques Show, received from the Chester County Historical Society, was circulated at the meeting for information**
- **Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Fellowship Conditional Use Application**
 - i. **Chuck Ginty appeared before the EFT HC to discuss the development plans and review the project. Mr. Ginty answered questions of the HC members concerned with impact on the adjacent historic resources, landscape buffering, and the handling of storm water drainage that could impact adjacent properties.**
 - ii. **Buddy Rhoades expressed his concern that the property owners adjacent to the planned development, especially those living in historic resources, should be canvassed to advise them of the planned development, and to give them an opportunity to voice any concerns or objections.**
 - iii. **The EFT HC voted on advising the BOS that the HXC had no particular objections to the proposed development, as it appears that the plans, as submitted, do not adversely impact adjacent historic resources or the local cultural landscape. The vote was 7 – 1 in favor, a memo advising the BOS that the EFT HC has no objections will be forwarded to the BOS, Zoning Hearing Board, and the Planning Commission.**

VI. Adjourn Meeting – meeting adjourned at 8:00PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe McCormick

Joe McCormick
Chairman
East Fallowfield Historical Commission